Alleged renting of the electrician's quarters to the Government Press Party.

*758-F Q.—Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government Press quarters purely intended for the electrician of the Government Press is rented for Rs. 5 per mensem to the Government Press Party, whereas the electrician was paying a rent of Rs. 12–8–0 per mensem ; and

(b) if so, why and under what authority ?

A.—(a) The building referred to was formerly required as quarters for the electrician who was paying a rent of Rs. 12–8–0 a month. The electrician asked permission to vacate the quarters and this was sanctioned. The building was then leased at Rs. 5 per mensem to the Government Press Party.

(b) Under the authority of Government, who considered this the most suitable use for the building, which was no longer required for the electrician, and that the rent was reasonable in the circumstances.

Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA :—" May I know what that part of the building will fetch now if it is let to the outsiders ? "

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" That is asking for an opinion."

Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA :—" No, Sir. Government are put to a loss. I should like to know whether the Government realize that they have made a mistake in giving this to the Party when they can easily get Rs. 30 by letting it to outsiders."

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" We were receiving Rs. 12–8–0 for it. Because it is a social club, the members of which are employees of the Government Press, the Government now let it for Rs. 5 per mensem "

Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA :—" Was the hon. Member entertained by this social club ?

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :— " No, Sir."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" That is not a concern of the Local Government."

Alleged preference shown by the Superintendent, Government Press, in granting leave to members of the Government Press Party.

*759-A Q.—Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Superintendent of the Government Press granted casual leave for two days in continuation of the Easter holidays to more than 25 persons of the Government Press Party to go on a pleasure trip to Ootacamund along with Mariabagiam, the Publication Assistant, the President of the Party ;

(b) whether he refused to grant such leave to others who are not members of the Party even for one or two days, for illness, death and other unavoidable circumstances ; and

(c) if so, what those cases are with their respective reasons for refusing the leave since January 1928 ?

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A.—(*a*) No; the Superintendent granted casual leave to nineteen employees of the Press in continuation of the Easter holidays to go to Ootacamund.

(*b*) No; leave has not been granted or refused with reference to membership of any association.

(*c*) There are no such cases.

Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA :—" Does the hon. the Home Member realize the seriousness of the mistake of leaving it to the Superintendent's discretion to give leave or no leave on certificates granted by longstanding registered medical practitioners, and is he aware that a certain employee of the Press died in the Press premises due to the indiscretion of the Superintendent? Is this discretion given to the Superintendents of all other departments? A patient suffering from typhoid fever . . . . ."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I am afraid the hon. Member is giving information."

Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA :—" I ask the hon. the Home Member whether he is aware of the seriousness of the mistake committed by the Government in giving discretion to the Superintendent in the matter of giving leave or no leave on medical certificates?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" I do not think any mistake has been made at all."

Application of rule 14 of the Statutory Rules by Mr. Gilbert in the case of dismissals and suspensions in the Government Press.

* 759-B *Q*.—Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the procedure as to the enquiry contemplated in rule 14 of the Statutory Rules has been strictly followed or not by Mr. Gilbert, the Superintendent, Government Press, in cases of dismissals, suspensions, reductions and removals;

(*b*) if the answer be in the affirmative, the number of cases in which the enquiry under rule 14 of the Statutory Rules was held;

(*c*) if the answer be in the negative, those cases in which no enquiry was held and the reasons for the same; and

(*d*) in how many cases, in which no enquiry was held, appeals against the orders of the Superintendent were allowed and in how many they were rejected?

A.—(*a*), (*b*), (*c*) & (*d*) Whenever an enquiry is necessary under rule 14 of the Statutory Rules, there is an appeal to Government against the punishment awarded. Any person aggrieved has therefore an opportunity of bringing the matter before Government and Government consider that no practical benefit would result from the labour necessary now to obtain the information asked for.

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" With reference to clause (*d*) of the question, may I know why the Government have given no answer, or what the answer is? The question is 'in how many cases in which no enquiry was held, appeals against the orders of the Superintendent were allowed and in how many they were rejected?' The answer does not say anything about the particular facts asked for in clause (*d*). May I ask for the information, Sir?"